



NATO 2024

Beyond the 75th anniversary

High-Level Conference

*Co-organised by the **NATO Defense College Foundation** with the
Centro Alti Studi per la Difesa (CASD)*

*under the High Patronage of the **President of the Republic***

Rome, 8th of July 2024

Venue: Centro Alti Studi per la Difesa – Sala Multimediale ([Piazza della Rovere, 83](#))

From 10 to 11 July, Washington DC will host an important Summit to celebrate NATO's 75th anniversary, representing a crucial turning point for the Alliance. The previous Vilnius Summit (11-12 July 2023) highlighted NATO's robust response to European threats and confirmed the strength of the Alliance. The upcoming Washington Summit will address threats and also strategic risks, including an attention to the Southern Region.

While Russia remains the main threat to Euro-Atlantic security, systemic competition from nations such as China and various asymmetric threats, especially in the South, present significant challenges. Among the key themes of the Summit are enhancing internal political consensus, strengthening NATO's role in security, relaunching the Defence Industrial Technology Base and restoring nuclear and conventional deterrence. In addition, the strengthening of partnerships in the Southern Region and the Indo Pacific aims at projecting security beyond Europe, in order to prevent and manage crises, while protecting sea lanes of communication with the Indian Ocean, paving the way for a broader strategic vision.

This High-Level Conference on International Security involves as many as **19 international specialists** in the premises of the **Centre for High Defense Studies (Centro Alti Studi per la Difesa)** to address the relevant issues.

The event will be opened by **Alessandro Minuto-Rizzo** (President, NDCF), **Giacinto Ottaviani** (President, Center for Advanced Defense Studies), **Max Nielsen** (Commandant, NATO Defense College), **Silke Schmitt** (Project Leader, Hanns-Seidel-Stiftung).

The first panel, moderated by **Daniela Irrera** (Political Sciences Chair, CASD), will analyse how the Alliance and its policies have to innovate to face the threat posed by Russia and tackle other regional challenges. This discussion emphasises the critical need for upholding consensus on NATO's priorities and streamlining its functioning. The panellists are **Thomas Erndl** (Deputy Chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee, Bundestag), **Oana Lungescu** (Former NATO Spokesperson, Royal United Services Institute), **Jamie Shea** (Professor, Strategy and Security Institute).

Under the leadership of **Ian Lesser** (Vice President; and Executive Director, Brussels Office, The German Marshall Fund of the United States), the second panel will focus on the essential role of partnerships in advancing cooperative security, particularly in the Southern Region (Mediterranean Dialogue and Istanbul Cooperation Initiative). Among the panellists: **Ahmad Masa'deh** (Former Secretary General, Union for the Mediterranean), **Abdulaziz Sager** (President, Gulf Research Centre), **Sheik Fawaz Meshal al Sabah** (Former Assistant Undersecretary National Security Bureau), **Sergio Piazzi** (Secretary General, Parliamentary

Assembly of the Mediterranean) and **Maria Luisa Fantappiè** (Head, Mediterranean, Middle East and Africa Programme, Istituto Affari Internazionali)

The High-Level Conference will feature also special interventions by **Charles Kupchan** (Senior Fellow, Council on Foreign Relations), **Stefano Pontecorvo** (Chairman, Leonardo Company), **Alessandro Ercolani** (CEO, Rheinmetall Italy) and **Giuseppe Cossiga** (Director, International Relations, MBDA Italy).

For the closing address is foreseen the intervention of **Giulio Tremonti** (President of the Foreign Affairs Committee, Chamber of Deputies).

The event, conducted exclusively *in English*, will be *streamed live*. Further details can be found in the **attached programme**.

PARTICIPATION: write to ndcf.pressmediarelations@gmail.com (Lorenza Santarelli, +39 328 02 56 192), specifying whether you want to participate **in person or virtually**. Kindly note that the number of seats available in the conference room is extremely limited.

INTERVIEWS: Along with your registration for the event, please indicate any interest in interviewing one or more speakers **by Wednesday, July 4th**. We will inform the relevant speakers and arrange the interviews accordingly.

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